

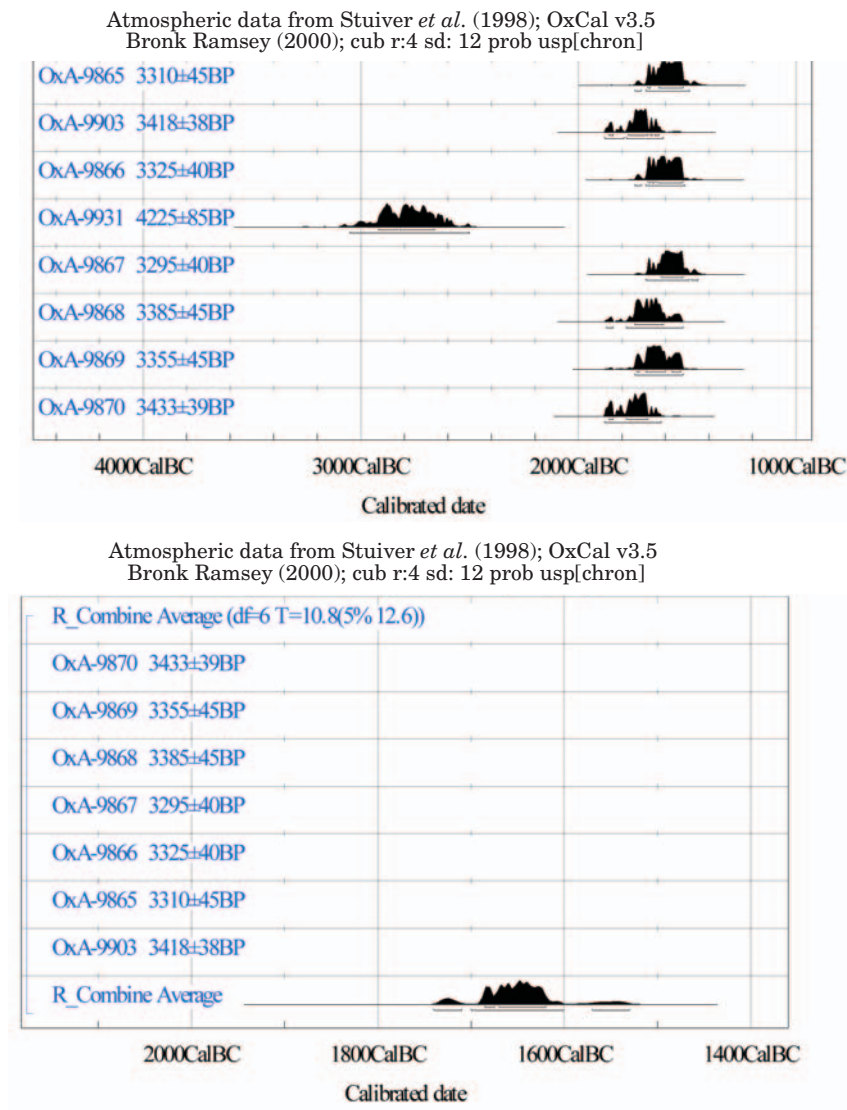
4 Radiocarbon Dates by *T Neighbour*

Radiocarbon dates were obtained from four contexts. Two dates were obtained from each context (Table 2). Plant macrofossils for the single entity dating were identified by Mike Church (Section 7.2, below). The dating was carried out by the Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit at Oxford University.

The dates are presented in context order in Illus 20. With the exception of OxA-9931, a date from the basal fill of the central cist (which is presumed to be re-deposited), the dates cluster around the period 1900 to 1500 BC. This supports an early/middle Bronze Age date for the cairn. No attempt has been made to tighten the individual dates using Bayesian statistics and *a priori* stratigraphic information. It is suspected that much of the cairn was built as a single event and that much of the soil

which formed the cairn was imported (Section 7.3, below); thus the possibilities for stratigraphic inversion during this process are high. Rather, an average of the dates has been provided (excluding the outlier, OxA-9931), as the main body of the cairn and the cist appear to have been constructed as one episode. This produces a date range of 1750 to 1520 BC at the 95% confidence interval, with the bulk of the probability distribution lying between 1700 and 1600 BC (Illus 20). This combined date should be treated with caution.

Unfortunately, no suitable carbonized remains were available to date the decline and abandonment of the cairn, as material recovered from the surface of the cairn was judged to be too insecure taphonomically to be submitted for radiocarbon dating.



Illus 20 Radiocarbon dates

Table 2 Radiocarbon dates from the kerbed cairn

OxA no	Context	Material	Measured/assumed $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (‰)	Radiocarbon age (BP)
OxA-9865	121	Charred seed, <i>Hordeum</i> sp.	-22.5	3310±45
OxA-9903	121	Charred seed, <i>Hordeum</i> sp.	-24.1	3418±38
OxA-9866	129	Charred seed, <i>Hordeum</i> sp.	-23.3	3325±40
OxA-9867	135	Charred seed, <i>Hordeum</i> sp.	-23.4	3295±40
OxA-9868	135	Charred seed, <i>Hordeum</i> sp.	-24.5	3385±45
OxA-9869	181	Charred seed, <i>Hordeum</i> sp.	-21.5	3355±45
OxA-9870	181	Charred seed, <i>Hordeum</i> sp.	-22.2	3433±39
OxA-9931	129	Charred seed, <i>Hordeum</i> sp.	-22.6	4225±85